the Ladder

april '60 50¢

purpose of the

Daughters of BILITIS

A WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF THE HOMOSEXUAL INTO SOCIETY BY:

1. Education of the variant, with particular emphasis on the psychological, physiological and sociological aspects, to enable her to understand herself and make her adjustment to society in all its social, civic and economic implications—this to be accomplished by establishing and maintaining as complete a library as possible of both fiction and non-fiction literature on the sex deviant theme; by sponsoring public discussions on pertinent subjects to be conducted by leading members of the legal, psychiatric, religious and other professions; by advocating a mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society.

2. Education of the public at large through acceptance first of the individual, leading to an eventual breakdown of erroneous taboos and prejudices; through public discussion meetings aforementioned; through dissemination of educational literature on the homosexual theme.

3. Participation in research projects by duly authorized and responsible psychologists, sociologists and other such experts directed towards further knowledge of the homosexual.

4. Investigation of the penal code as it pertains to the homosexual, proposal of changes to provide an equitable handling of cases involving this minority group, and promotion of these changes through due process of law in the state legislatures.

Aurikute K Vairio
Parkland, Wd 168

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the Ladder

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THE LADDER is regarded as a sounding board for various points of view on the homophile and related subjects and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the organization.

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COVER BY KERRY

DOB CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

It may seem that we're bugging you about DOB's first national convention - and we are. We believe you will be missing a great deal if you pass up this gathering - the first we know of to concentrate on the Lesbian and her problems.

Reservations are coming in from all over the country - and indications are there will be a very good turnout.

Among the speakers who have confirmed are those who will discuss "Why the Lesbian?". Bernice Engle of the Langley-Porter Clinic in San Francisco will moderate the panel. Mrs. Engle has co-authored many studies on sexual deviation with Dr. Karl Bowman, former head of the Clinic.

Panelists will be Dr. Frank A. Beach of the psychology department of the University of California and co-author of the well-known book "Patterns of Sexual Behavior"; Dr. Norman Reider, head of the Psychiatric Clinic of Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco; Dr. Leo J. Zeff, Berkeley clinical psychologist, and Patricia Lyon of the University of California at Santa Barbara, anthropologist and archaeologist.

The above is only <u>one</u> portion of the planned program. The entire program will appear in next month's LADDER.

Activities will begin Friday evening, May 27, with a reception for out-of-town visitors. Saturday, May 28, is the main program - cost $12.50 per person which includes luncheon and the banquet. A cocktail hour will be held before the banquet.

If possible, reservations should be made in advance. A $5 deposit will suffice. For further information about the convention, housing, etc., contact DOB at 165 O'Farrell St., Rm. 405, San Francisco 2, Calif.

Incidentally, men are welcome to attend the Saturday sessions. Hope we'll see you all here in May.

The Sapphic Cinema

BY LAURAJEAN ERMAYNE

AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THIS IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT TO CREATE A CHECKLIST OF LESBIAN FILMS. IN SOBER POINT OF FACT, FEW (OTHER THAN ONE OUT-AND-OUT UNTITLED "STAG" FILM) CAN QUALIFY AS LITTLE MORE THAN LESBIANOID - ONLY SEMI-SAPPHIC IN CONTENT - FOR THE WELL OF LONELINESS AND THE REAL BUTCHNIK PIX IN BILITISCOPE AND SAPPHONIC SOUND ARE STILL AMONG THE "SHAPES" OF THINGS TO COME.

BUT TAKE HEART, DEAR HEARTS! IN 1932 WHEN FORREST J. ACKERMAN PIONEERED IN A SIMILARLY "ESOTERIC" FIELD AND COMPILED HISTORY'S FIRST LIST OF FANTASTIC AND SCIENCE FICTION TYPE MOVIES, HIS PROUD ROSTER OF "SCIENTIFILMS" NUMBERED ONLY A MEAGRE 34. NOW, FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS, HE HAS BEEN FILLING WHOLE 68 PAGE ISSUES OF AN INTERNATIONALLY CIRCULATED MAGAZINE WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HUNDREDS OF "SCI-FI" FILMS. SO, LET US HOPE, WITH RUMORS OF LESBIANISM IN SPARTACUS, AND MUCH TALK ON THE WORLD MART ABOUT THE MAKING OF SEVERAL OF "OUR KIND" OF MOTION PICTURES, - LET US HOPE THAT OUR SALAD DAYS ARE ABOUT TO APPEAR ON THE MOVIE MENU. MENTIONED FOR PRODUCTION HAVE BEEN THE CAPTIVE, AN AS YET UNTITLED EXPERIMENTAL FILM SCRIPTED BY AND TO BE PRODUCED BY JOHN SCHMITZ OF HOLLYWOOD, THE ITALIAN SAPPHO - GODDESS OF LESBOS (FEATURING LUSCIOUS TINA LOUISE), AND THE WELL OF LONELINESS ITSELF!

IN 1947, WHEN I WAS ASSISTING LISA BEN WITH VICE VERSA CONTRIBUTIONS, WE KNEW OF ONLY FOUR FILMS THAT QUALIFIED IN ANY WAY: ESCAPE TO YESTERDAY, A FRENCH PRODUCTION WITH A BRIEF SEQUENCE IN A CABARET WHERE HOMOPHILES, INCLUDING ONE CLYFFE, WERE RECOGNIZABLE; TURNABOUT (YES, THE THORNE SMITH SEX-FARCE WHEREIN A MAN FINDS HIS EGO TRANSFERRED TO A WOMAN'S BODY); CHILDREN OF LONELINESS, A MISERABLE EXCUSE FOR A MOVIE OF ANY NATURE; AND - THE BEST OF ITS KIND MADE TO DATE - CLUB DES FEMMES (GIRLS CLUB), ABOUT WHICH MORE LATER.

HERE, THEN, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, IS OUR PITIFUL LITTLE LIST OF FILMS WITH AT LEAST A TINGE OF INTEREST FOR THE URANIAN. CAN YOU ADD TO IT?

1. THE ADVENTURES OF KING PAUSOLE
2. CHILDREN OF LONELINESS

3. THE CHILDREN'S HOUR (?)
4. ESCAPE TO YESTERDAY
5. MAEDCHEN IN UNIFORM (GIRLS IN UNIFORM)
6. NO EXIT
7. OPEN CITY
8. PIT OF LONELINESS
9. TIME OF DESIRE
10. TORST (THIRST)
11. TURNABOUT

THE ADVENTURES OF KING PAUSOLE WAS WRITTEN BY PIERRE LOUYS, OF "APHRODITE" FAME, AND FILMED IN FRANCE IN 1932, STARRING EMIL JANNINGS IN THE ENGLISH TALKING VERSION - WITH 366 UNINHIBITED ARTIST'S MODELS AND DANCERS FROM THE FOLIES BERGERE WHO RAN AROUND ABOUT AS BARE AS WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT OF BRIGITTE BARDOT. AMONG THESE 366 (ONE FOR LEAP YEAR) NEAR-NUDE AND NUBILE NYMPHS WAS A GIRL DISGUISED AS A MALE BALLET DANCER, WITH WHOM THE KING'S DAUGHTER ALINE HAD A ROMANCE EVEN AFTER SHE DISCOVERED THEY WERE OF THE SAME SEX!

NO EXIT WAS A FRENCH FILMIZATION OF THE PLAY BY JEAN PAUL-SARTRE; SETTING: LIMBO; AND ONE OF THE CHARACTERS WAS A LESCORT TYPE, HALFWAY TO HELL BECAUSE SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH A MARRIED WOMAN AND DROVE HER TO SUICIDE BY SPOOKING HER.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR BEARS A QUESTION MARK BECAUSE, WHILE THE PLAY DEFINITELY HAD ITS LESBIAN MINUTES, I REGRET THAT MEMORY FAILS ME WHEN IT COMES TO THE FILM. DOES ANYONE REMEMBER IF THERE WAS ANY HINT OF SISTERISM ON THE SCREEN?

CHILDREN OF LONELINESS, AN OUTRIGHT ANTI-HOMOPHILE PROPAGANDA PIECE, WAS MAINLY MALE-ORIENTED BUT DID CONTAIN A GAY NITECLUB SCENE AND PICTURED AN OFFICE BUTCH WHOSE OFFER OF AFFECTION AND PROTECTION DROVE A "THIRD SEX" GIRL TO A PSYCHIATRIST'S COUCH, WHERE SHE WAS COUNSELLED AGAINST "ABNORMAL LOVE".

IN 1951, ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF MY LIFE IN PARIS, I FOUND PIT OF LONELINESS PLAYING AND HASTENED TO SEE IT. IT IS BASED ON THE ANONYMOUSLY AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL "OLIVIA", A BOOK WHICH A DEAR DYKE FRIEND OF MINE IN LONDON HAD JUST GIVEN ME AS A GIFT, BUT THE CINEMADAPTATION WAS SOMEWHAT OF A DISAPPOINTMENT DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF SIMONE SIMON, A BLUE ANGEL IN REAL LIFE BUT A DREAM-FLUFF IN REEL, AND THE REGAL PALE EDWIGE FEULLIERE.

STILL FROM TIME OF DESIRE SIDEN-ACKERMAN

MAEDCHEN IN UNIFORM. REGRETFULLY, I WAS TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LESBIANISM WHEN I SAW THIS CLASSIC. I SAW ONLY A TEENAGE SCHOOL GIRL, HERTHA THIELE, HUNGERING FOR THE APPROVAL OF HER TEACHER, SPIRITUAL DOROTHEA WIECK. I BELIEVE THE FILM HAS BEEN REMADE RECENTLY, BUT SO FAR HAS NOT REACHED THE USA, SO I COULD NOT REPORT HOW EVIDENT IN THE NEW VERSION THE LESBIAN LOVE-CRUSH MAY BE.

TIME OF DESIRE. I KNOW MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF THE URANIAN ELEMENTS OF THIS SWEDISH PICTURE, BUT PERSONALLY I COULDN'T SEE IT. ALL I SAW WAS TWO FROLICSOME YOUNG JAMSTERS, BUT I'LL ADMIT IT WAS A TREAT WATCHING THEM HUG EACH OTHER IN THEIR NIGHTGOWNS AND DISPORT THEMSELVES IN THE LAKE A LA BUFFNIKS!

TORST, DIRECTED BY INGMAR "SEVENTH SEAL" BERGMAN, IS, ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAM OF THE CORONET THEATRE IN HOLLYWOOD, "THE STORY OF 3 WOMEN AND THEIR STRANGE LOVE LIVES. ONE IS AN ADULTRESS, THE SECOND HAS LESBIAN TENDENCIES AND THE THIRD IS LOVE-STARVED." UNDERLINING

MINE. AS OF THIS WRITING I HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE FILM.

OPEN CITY, THE REALISTIC ITALIAN HIT OF 10 YEARS OR SO AGO, HAD A RECOGNIZABLE LEZ IN IT.

I HAVE SAVED THE BEST TILL LAST, THE UNFORGETTABLE CLUB DES FEMMES, FILMED ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO IN FRANCE, REVIVED IN 1947 UNDER MOST AUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN HOLLYWOOD. ALAS FOR THE LOST CINEMA CLUB OF PAUL BALLARD AND ITS TREASURE TROVE OF UNUSUAL PICTURES!

DUE TO THE GRAPEVINE OF LISA BEN, LOCAL LEZDOM WAS OUT IN FULL FORCE TO SEE THIS SPLENDID LEZFILM. THE EMPATHETIC FORREST ACKERMAN WAS THERE TO SHARE STILLS FROM THE PRODUCTION WITH THE GALS, AND THE FABULOUS LISA HERSELF WAS ACTIVELY IN ATTENDANCE.

AN ELECTRIFIED AUDIENCE WAS CAPTIVATED BY "THE PIQUANT CHARMS AND EXPRESSIVE FEATURES OF DANIELLE DARRIEUX", TO QUOTE FROM THE 1300 WORD REVIEW WHICH LISA WAS INSPIRED TO PUBLISH IN THE SECOND ISSUE OF VICE VERSA, "AND BY ALICE, A STRANGE SORT OF GIRL WHO IS AWARE THAT SHE IS 'DIFFERENT' BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHY, AND MOVES THRU THE FILM WITH SERENE DIGNITY AND GRACE."

ALICE IS ATTRACTED TO BUXOM BLOND JOSETTE DAY, LATER SEEN AS THE HEROINE OF LA BELLE ET LA BETE (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST), AND IN ONE SCISSORED BUT NOT COMPLETELY CENSORED SCENE THE BARE BREASTS OF THE BEAUTEOUS JOSETTE ARE BRIEFLY REVEALED, TO BE REPRISED SHORTLY THEREAFTER, TOGETHER WITH HER SHOULDERS AND BACK, AS SHE SHOWERS.

I, PERSONALLY, SHALL NEVER FORGET THE TENDER SCENE WHEN THE ALMOND-EYED LESBIAN, NEWLY AWAKENED TO HER NATURE, BENDS OVER THE SHOULDER OF JOSETTE, WHILE HELPING HER TO SPELL, AND BEGINS: "MA SOEUR ..." ("MY SISTER.") TO QUOTE LISA BEN: "HOW BEAUTIFUL AND MELANCHOLY HER EYES, HOW WISTFUL HER VOICE AS SHE DICTATES, 3 OR 4 WORDS AT A TIME, THE SIMPLE VERSE WHICH SAYS, 'COME AWAY WITH ME, WE TWO SHALL LIVE TOGETHER...'"

TO CONCLUDE FROM LISA'S REVIEW: "THE ROLE OF ALICE WAS PORTRAYED WITH ADMIRABLE GOOD TASTE. ONE COULD NOT HELP BUT ADMIRE THE CHARACTER OF THE QUIET, SELF-CONTAINED LESBIAN WHO BORE SUCH GREAT AFFECTION FOR HER GIRL FRIEND, YET FORBORE, EVEN WHEN ENTREATED REPEATEDLY TO DO SO, TO ENTER HER GIRL FRIEND'S ROOM TO KEEP HER COMPANY IN THE EVENINGS. POSSESSED OF BEAUTY, BOTH SPIRITUAL AND

PHYSICAL, ALICE WAS RESERVED, DIGNIFIED, INTELLIGENT AND HONORABLE AT ALL TIMES. HER ROLE WAS HANDLED IN A SANE, INTELLIGENT MANNER RATHER THAN FURNISHING THE USUAL SUBJECT FOR HARMFUL PROPAGANDA OR MERE SENSATIONALISM."

THIS COULD MAKE A GREAT REMAKE WITH A CAST INCLUDING NATALIE WOOD, TRINA PETIT, KATHARINE HEPBURN AND TUESDAY WELD. SCRIPT BY MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY! WE SHOULD LIVE SO LONG? LET'S HOPE BEFORE WE'RE ALL MUCH OLDER WE'LL HAVE SEEN CLASS "A" VERSIONS OF THE WELL OF LONELINESS, DIANA, THE SCORPION AND STRANGER'S HARBOR.

ADDENDUM - 'the Goddess'

"THE GODDESS", WHICH IS AN EXCELLENT MOTION PICTURE, WAS RELEASED ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND SHOWN MOSTLY AT SPECIALTY THEATERS. IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PLAY THE ART HOUSES FROM TIME TO TIME, SO WATCH FOR IT!

UNLOVED IN CHILDHOOD AND REARED IN A LONELY ATMOSPHERE AFTER (WITH HER KNOWLEDGE) BEING UNWANTED AND ABANDONED BY HER WIDOWED MOTHER, THE MAIN CHARACTER GOES THROUGH TWO UNSUCCESSFUL MARRIAGES AND FINDS HER LIFE AS A MOVIE QUEEN UNSATISFYING. SHE SUFFERS A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, TURNS TO LIQUOR AND BECOMES A VERY MALADJUSTED PERSON SEEKING ONLY TO BE LOVED. SHE FINALLY ENDS UP LIVING WITH HER SECRETARY, WHO IS OBVIOUSLY A LESBIAN, AND THE LAST SEVERAL SCENES OF THE PICTURE BRING OUT THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SURPRISING FRANKNESS IN THE DIALOGUE.

ANY PICTURE DEALING WITH LESBIANISM IS, OF COURSE, OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO US; BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, THIS IS SUCH AN EXCELLENT ADULT PICTURE YOU SHOULDN'T MISS IT. THE BROADWAY ACTRESS, KIM STANLEY, GIVES A PERFORMANCE THAT IS GREAT.

- Z. NEWELL

"TO US, A SOCIETY IS NOT FREE IF LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS LIVE IN FEAR OF BEING DENIED THE RIGHT TO WORK, OR DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

GEN. GEORGE C. MARSHALL

Eighteen Steps

By Jay Wallace

Rainy Manhattan afternoons bored her; the radio sounded childish, and TV just wasn't up to standard. She shifted the cards, and thrust them aside suddenly. What the hell was there to do on a rainy afternoon in Manhattan. She went to the little table in the kitchenette and poured herself another drink. She glanced apprehensively at the tall empty space above the residue. Dammit! Almost gone! And she couldn't afford another bottle until Tuesday. But maybe some roomer would come in and pay the rent, and then she could borrow it; and if Mr. Cohen came around collecting unexpectedly, she could make up some story. Nobody would be apt to check on it. She ran through the list of tenants quickly, in her mind. Everyone was paid,up for the week, except that old bum in "23"; and Mr. Cohen was going to throw him out, anyway. Everybody upstairs, and then, of course the two in the basement; they were paid up in advance. "The-two-in-the-basement", as she always thought of them; those creepy characters, who lived together down there, and probably did unspeakable things at night, when they were alone together. She had even heard them laughing at times; enjoying their perversion, wallowing in it. Thelma Winters, Superintendent at 3460 West 21st street, shook her head and shuddered. Horrible, the thought of those two women, living together, like a decent married couple. Bums, that's what they were. Bums, and freaks, and even worse. Indulging in lewd perversion, during the night; and then, in the morning, that tall one, strutting off to a good-paying job in an office somewhere, just as if she were a normal, intelligent girl. Thelma Winters poured herself another drink, and flipped on the radio.

She glanced at the phone. Maybe she could call John at work, in spite of what he had told her. She could make up a story about being ill, or something. It might sound logical. He hadn't been to see her in three days, and

during that time, anything might have happened. She picked up the receiver resolutely, and dialed his number. The cheerful voice said: "Good Afternoon...Stewart Corporation..." Then she hung up quickly, feeling guilty that she had even disturbed the switchboard operator. She flopped down on the bed, and stared up at the ceiling. Maybe the Puerto Ricans next door would get drunk this evening, and create some interesting chaos. She closed her eyes. Friday. A rainy Friday afternoon in Manhattan. Two-thiry on a rainy Friday afternoon in Manhattan. She remembered suddenly, that it was always on Friday, around six o'clock, that "The-two-in-the-basement" made their advance payments. They always managed to stay three weeks ahead; this annoyed Thelma. Why couldn't they be like the rest of the struggling roomers, and slip behind once in a while; but no, they had to stay paid-up, three weeks in advance. Why did they have to act so damn respectable, when anyone could see by just looking at them, that they were freaks...perverts...Lesbians. Especially that tall one; her with that smart-aleck attitude, the way she always said: "Well, here I am again." Especially that tall one; with the plaid shirt, and the well-pressed slacks, on Saturday afternoon, carrying in bundles; and laughing, the way they laughed in the hall, just outside her door. Two-forty-five; Friday, a rainy Friday afternoon, with the raindrops making a special music of their own against the window-pane. Thelma closed her eyes.

The dream took only a short time, and when she awoke, she was conscious only of a gnawing irritation, something vague, and half-forgotten. She twisted in her narrow bed; and then the full force of remembrance struck her. She went throughtit again, with even the smallest details standing out vividly. She remembered that she was walking down a flight of stairs, but she could not seem to get to the bottom. She thought that this was strange, as she knew that there were only eighteen steps; but she kept going. Then, she wasn't alone on the stairway; the tall one was walking along with her; the masculine one, who wore tailored slacks.

"There are only eighteen steps," she had said to the tall one.

"How do you know? Did you count them?"

"I count them every evening, when you come home; I hear you going down to your girl-friend, in the basement, and I count the eighteen thumps your feet make on the steps."

"Why do you do that?"

"Because I am so annoyed..."

"Why are you annoyed?"

"Because you are going down to the basement, to sleep with your girl-friend."

"What girl-friend? You're my girl-friend, aren't you?"

She shuddered in her rumpled bed, remembering. She could feel, once again, the intimate caresses, and the kiss. She recalled the feeling of elation and fulfilled desire. It came back to her, real and overpowering. She jumped up and ran to the little table in the kitchenette, and poured herself another drink...a stiff one.

Then she dressed herself in her very best clothes. She went out, locking the door carefully after her.

The atmosphere in the tavern was cozy, on a rainy afternoon in Manhattan. A few early drinkers had arrived; but she ignored them. She walked to the very end of the bar and slipped onto a stool. Then she returned the smile of the beefy-faced man who was watching her.

"Well, if it ain't little Thelma! I thought you forgot all about us."

"No, Willie; I never forget my old friends. You know that."

"You ain't been here in a long time, Thelma. I was beginning to think you moved, or something..."

"Oh, I gave up drinking for awhile, Willie. I was getting too fat."

He leaned back, surveying her critically. "You ain't fat, Thelma!"

She smiled weakly. "Okay then, Willie. Gimme a beer."

"Comin' right up, Baby. One-on-the-house."

He placed the glass of foamy, amber liquid before her; and reached over across the bar with his free hand, to grasp one of hers. "I missed you like crazy, kiddo," he said softly.

"Why didn't you come over? You know where I live, Willie."

"I thought about it; but you got that other guy now, that ...what's his name? John?"

She gave an indifferent shrug. "Oh him. I give him the boot out the back door long ago. I...I was kinda waitin' for you to come over, Willie."

His little greenish eyes gleamed with inner joy. "Gee, honey; I didn't know. I figured you was busy."

"What time you done tonight, Willie?"

"At ten, Baby. You wait for me, okay?"

"Sure, Willie. I'll wait..."

"Drink up, honey. You got another drink-on-the-house comin'."

"What's the matter, Thelma; you act like you don't like me no more..."

"Oh, Willie! Stop it. Didn't I come over to the bar, and didn't I let you come up here? And besides, I done all the things you like me to do."

He swung his feet over the edge of the bed, and sat up. "Yeah, you did, honey. I didn't mean to pick on you; but it just seems like you ain't got you mind on what

you're doing. You ain't thinking of that other guy, are you?"

"Oh, Willie! You're too damn sensitive."

"Yeah, I guess I am, Thelma. I ain't like the rest of the guys that hang around the bar. I'm different. Got anything to drink, honey?"

"You brought some beer..."

"Naw. I mean something that's got a wallop in it."

"Gee, no Willie..."

"Let's get dressed and go back to the bar, Baby..."

"No, Willie. You know this always makes me tired. I want to sleep."

He sighed, and said: "Okay..." and clumsily reached for his garments. He began to put them on. "Come over tomorrow, honey?"

"Maybe. Tomorrow's Saturday, though. I'm busy Saturday, cleaning and laundry. A lot of roomers pay their rent on Saturday. And I wasn't home this evening; they'll all be in tomorrow."

He turned away from her, and went to the dingy mirror to comb his hair.

"I was here last evening, but you weren't home, Thelma. We like to keep a little ahead..."

"Yes, of course, Lynn. Mr. Cohen appreciates that."

The tall young woman placed some folded bills on the desk and stood waiting. She had placed both hands in the pockets of her tailored slacks, and she was whistling softly, and examining a faded calander illustration of a dog and a little boy fishing. Thelma bent over the desk, writing. Then she tore off the receipt and handed it to

the young woman. Their finger-tips touched lightly, and Thelma felt the electric thrill penetrate to her marrow, as it traveled upward from her hand to other parts of her body.

The tall young woman smiled, and backed out of the door, closing it after her. The sound of her footsteps was audible, as she thumped down the eighteen steps to her basement apartment. Then the apartment door slammed shut. Thelma stood listening, shoving the papers back into the messy little desk.

She threw herself down on the bed and closed her eyes. She could feel the tingle of the alcohol reaching out and touching every nerve in her body. Sometimes people have recurring dreams; sometimes people dream the same thing, over and over. She tried to recall all the details, to impress them on her mind so that her subconscious mind would soak them up and give them back to her. She turned over on her side, breathing heavily, and fell into a deep, dreamless slumber.

MOOD INDIGO?

SPLIT RHYTHMS, BROKEN HARMONIES,
MOODS LIKE MELODIES IN MINOR KEY
PLAY AND INTERTWINE THE DAY
BEREFT OF FINAL MEANING.
AND YET, EACH MOOD A CLUE
BUILDS UP THE DOME OF FUTURE JOY.
WHETHER THE CRESCENDO BE A BURST OF SONG
OR A PEAL OF DOOM,
THE MUSIC OF THE MOMENT FILLS THE ROOM
WITH MELODY, THAT WAKES THE HEART TO SING
OF PENDING, PERPETUAL, INDOMITABLE SPRING.

- RUTH T. DROB

COMPLETE LESBIANA CHECKLIST

Advance orders are now being accepted for the 1960 edition of the "Complete Cumulative Checklist of Lesbian Literature". The list has been in preparation for four years, the two previous "Astra's Tower" checklists being only preliminary experiments.

The Checklist is a complete index of Lesbian and homosexual literature. More than 500 titles are listed and reviewed, indexed by author in one, simple, easy-to-use listing.

It is also the last of the cumulative Checklists; in future years only supplements will be published, listing reprints and books published after 1960. Copies are sure to become valuable collectors' items, so order your copy now.

As usual, the Checklist is edited and published by Marion Zimmer Bradley. This year, however, the editorial staff has been enlarged by the services of Gene Damon, backbone of the "Lesbiana" column in THE LADDER.

Since all this has been done by volunteer work, and is strictly a labor of love, the size of the edition has to be limited. (No extra copies will be printed. Due to the high cost of paper and postage, there is a point where the budget refuses to budge.)

Publication date is May 30, 1960 - to coincide with the DOB Convention. Orders, accompanied by payment, must be in by the first of May in order to determine how many copies to print. Get your order in <u>before</u> the first edition leaves the press - there may never be a second.

The pre-publication price of the Checklist is $1. The day the copy goes to press the price goes up to $1.50, provided there are any extra copies at all. So be sure you reserve your Checklist <u>now</u>. Send $1, with your name and address, to Marion Zimmer Bradley, Box 158, Rochester, Texas. DO IT NOW!

LESBIANA

136. THE GIRLS IN 3-B BY VALERIE TAYLOR, FAWCETT, 1959.

BARBY, ONE OF THE THREE ROOMMATES IN 3-B, IS A LESBIAN. AFTER A FRIGHTENING RAPE EXPERIENCE AND A COUPLE OF GENERAL DISAPPOINTMENTS SHE MEETS ILENE, AN OLDER WOMAN WHOSE GIRL LEFT THE YEAR BEFORE TO GET MARRIED. ILENE AND BARBY FALL IN LOVE AND BARBY MOVES IN WITH ILENE. THEY HAVE A COUPLE OF FAMILY PROBLEMS BUT WORK THEM OUT VERY WELL AND YOU ARE LEFT WITH THE FEELING THEY DEFINITELY HAVE A GOOD LIFE TOGETHER. THIS AUTHOR TREATED A LESBIAN AFFAIR BETWEEN AN OLDER WOMAN AND A YOUNG GIRL IN "WHISPER THEIR LOVE" WITH MUCH LESS UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY JUST TWO YEARS AGO.

137. WOMAN ASTRIDE BY NORA PURTSCHER-WYDENBRUCK. APPLETON-CENTURY, 1935.

A WILD HISTORICAL ROMANCE PURPORTEDLY BASED ON FACT. JUDITH VON LOE BECOMES A TRANSVESTITE TO STAY NEAR HER LOVE IN THE ARMY. SHE IS SUCH A CONVINCING MAN HE BECOMES JEALOUS OF HER, SHE DUELS WITH HIM AND WINS. SHE BECOMES DIPLOMAT TO TURKEY, IS HELD CAPTIVE IN A TURKISH HAREM (THE OWNER IS OLD AND IMPOTENT). SHE ESCAPES THE HAREM AND JOINS A BAND OF GYPSIES. AT THE END OF HER LONG LIFE SHE GIVES UP ADVENTURING AND (STILL IN THE GUISE OF A MAN) BECOMES A SORT OF MYSTIC, CARING FOR THE SICK AND THE POOR.

138. SINFUL DESIRES BY FLORENCE STONEBRAKER. BEDSIDE BOOKS, INC. 1959. ($.50 PAPERBACK)

THIS IS A VERY STRANGE LITTLE BOOK. ON ONE PAGE IT BLAST AWAY AT LESBIANISM AND MALE HOMOSEXUALITY AND ON THE NEXT GETS IN A FEW SCIENTIFIC REMARKS ON HOW NATURAL AND NORMAL HOMOSEXUALITY REALLY IS. PLOT LINE IS VERY FAMILIAR. NICE PRETTY GIRL MARRIED TO BRUTE MEETS SEDUCTIVE BABE WHO LOOKS AND ACTS PRETTY UN-LESBIAN-LIKE EXCEPT IN QUIET CORNERS. PRETTY GIRL FALLS FOR LESBIAN HARD AND ALL IS JOY FOR

A FEW PAGES. ALONG COMES ROMANTIC MALE LEAD - IN THIS CASE A DELICATE LITTLE FELLOW JUST GETTING OVER A ROMANTIC ATTACHMENT TO ANOTHER MAN (NEW TWIST), SO OF COURSE PRETTY GIRL AND DELICATE LITTLE FELLOW FALL INTO ONE ANOTHERS "NORMAL" ARMS AND FALL IN LOVE. THEY PROCEED TO GET REAL "NORMAL" ON THE LAST FEW PAGES.

139. WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS BY ANN BANNON. FAWCETT, 1959. (GOLD MEDAL #S919).

THE LIFE OF LAURA LANDON IS NOW A TRILOGY; WE MET HER FIRST IN ODD GIRL OUT, FAWCETT, 1957, AND THEN IN I AM A WOMAN, FAWCETT, 1959. IN THIS LATEST AND POSSIBLY LAST NOVEL ON LAURA, THE TONE HAS CHANGED FROM POSITIVE TO NEGATIVE, AND THE STORY BEGINS AND ENDS ON AN UNHAPPY NOTE FOR ALMOST EVERYONE CONCERNED.

THE TIME IS TWO YEARS AFTER LAURA AND BEEBO HAVE BEGUN LIVING TOGETHER, LAURA IS UNHAPPY AND DISSATISFIED WHILE BEEBO IS STILL VERY MUCH IN LOVE. LAURA MEETS A DANCER, TRIS, AND TRIES A LITTLE CASUAL SEX, BUT THIS FAILS. HER MALE FRIEND, JACK, HAS LOST HIS LOVER SO HE IS UNHAPPY TOO.

LAURA LEAVES BEEBO AND FORMS A PLATONIC MARRIAGE WITH JACK. AFTER MUCH TRIAL AND TROUBLE, TEARS AND TRIBULATION, IT SEEMS ALMOST POSSIBLE THAT LAURA AND JACK WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A PURELY MENTAL MARRIAGE WORK OUT. BEEBO IS LEFT BROKEN IN SPIRIT AND PREMATURELY AGED BY LAURA'S DESERTION OF HER. INTERESTINGLY THE FOCUS IS SHIFTED IN THIS NOVEL IN ONE WAY. LAURA IS STILL THE MAIN PROTAGONIST, BUT BEEBO IS THE HEROINE.

140. FIRST PERSON...THIRD SEX BY SLOANE M. BRITAIN. NEWSSTAND LIBRARY, 1959 (7644 BELMONT AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.)

THIS IS A MUST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL, PRICE $.50. BELIEVABLE AND WELL WRITTEN STORY OF THE ADJUSTMENT, THROUGH TWO DIFFERENT LOVE AFFAIRS, TO LESBIANISM. AUTHOR IS PROBABLY A WOMAN AND THE STORY IS REMARKABLY FREE OF CLICHE AND STEREOTYPE. THE READER IS LEFT BELIEVING IN THE PEOPLE, AND THE SITUATION AND THE EVENTUAL HAPPINESS FOR THE MAIN PROTAGONIST.

Cigar - Smoking Women ?

(Courtesy of Hal Boyle as published in the Oakland Tribune.)

Curbstone comments of a pavement Plato:

How can life be made better for all in this woman's world we now dwell in?

Well, here's an idea for a starter: Why not encourage the ladies to take up cigar smoking?

In an era in which more and more value is placed on togetherness, the cigar remains one of the few symbols of apartness.

Women today talk like men, work like men, dress like men and drink like men. But very few - in this country anyway - have learned to smoke like men.

So far, in their invasion of former masculine prerogatives, the cigar has defeated them. Stick a cigar in the average woman's kisser, and she doesn't know what to do with it. She looks a bit like an anteater trying to blow up a football.

But it is doubtful if fair womanhood will ever make a real success of the equal rights movement until the ladies master the art of striking a kitchen match on the bottom of their slacks and lighting up a cigar in confident ease.

Why don't more women take up cigar smoking? Well, not for the reasons they give. They say cigars are dirty and nasty and smell up the draperies. They say cigars taste bad - a slander if ever there was one. There are

few aromas in nature more delicate and pleasurable than a puff of smoke from a fine clear Havana.

Many women with a connoisseur's palate for the finer joys of life have discovered this. They range from "Poker Alice", the lady gambler of the Western frontier, to poetess Amy Lowell, who was the very spirit of New England. The Italian actress, Anna Magnani, is among the noted feminine cigar smokers of today.

But you will note one pertinent thing about these three ladies - they are all talented, strong-minded decisive women. Herein may lie the real key to the mystery of why so many women avoid cigars, or openly attack them.

At the risk of alienating the unenlightened addicts of other forms of nicotine, I'd like to point out the basic superiority of the cigar smoker over both the cigaret and the pipe smoker.

Your typical cigaret smoker is often nervous and indecisive. Your typical pipe man is a life-beaten philosopher sending up smoke signals of futility.

But your typical cigar smoker is an expansive, aggressive, forceful optimist - a man of action, forthright and decisive. I give you, for example, U. S. Grant, Gen. George S. Patton and Winston Churchill.

The man who smokes cigars is a man who can make up his mind. This, I submit, is why so few women today smoke cigars. They aren't the kind of people who really like to make up their mind.

For all their vaunted present power and influence, women still prefer to get by through their age-old arts of charm and evasion. As a cat hates to get its feet wet, a woman still hates to make up her mind and take direct action. When it comes to real power, woman is still a fence sitter at heart.

Her heroine is still Cleopatra, who ruled Mark Antony by romantic wiles. But she overlooks the fact that if Cleopatra had been a really virile cigar-smoking type she

would have ruled not only Antony but Rome itself.

And mark my word now - the day American women stop kidding around and really shoulder the responsibility of running the country will be the day after they all bite the end off a stogie, clamp it in their jaws and order the nearest male: "Light me, little man!"

Civil Liberties

"CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE YOUR RIGHTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT--NOT OTHER INDIVIDUALS" EXPLAINED GEORGE E. RUNDQUIST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, AT A MATTACHINE-SPONSORED TALK IN NEW YORK.

"THE CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION IS A CONTINUAL DISSENTER IN OPPOSING PRESSURES FOR CONFORMITY." IT EVEN SHOCKS SOME BECAUSE IT DOES NOT DISAPPROVE OF PORNOGRAPHY. AS THE ONLY GROUP COVERING THE WHOLE AREA OF INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, THE UNION HAS NO AXE TO GRIND FOR ANY ONE MINORITY GROUP BUT SEEKS ONLY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS UNDER THE LAW, HOWEVER UNPOPULAR THEIR VIEWS OR ACTIVITIES, THE SPEAKER EXPLAINED.

MR. RUNDQUIST DESCRIBED THE GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION SINCE ITS FOUNDING DURING WORLD WAR I TO AID HEAVILY-BADGERED PACIFISTS AND OTHERS OPPOSED TO OUR ENTRY INTO THE WAR. TODAY, LAWYERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY OFFER THEIR SERVICES FREE FOR ITS CASES, THE UNION PAYING ONLY COSTS FOR PRINTING BRIEFS AND TRAVEL TO COURT.

BESIDES WORKING WITH COURTS TO CLARIFY CIVIL LIBERTIES, THE UNION NEGOTIATES: WITH OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY THE POLICE (MR. RUNDQUIST NOTED FAR FEWER COMPLAINTS OF POLICE BRUTALITY); WITH VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS, SUCH AS LICENSES, WHICH REFUSES LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THOSE CHARGED WITH CERTAIN OFFENSES; WITH THE STATE LEGISLATURE ON BILLS THAT MIGHT VIOLATE CIVIL RIGHTS. TWO BILLS CURRENTLY BEING FOUGHT IN ALBANY WOULD, A) PROVIDE BLANKET GUILT FOR ALL IN A GROUP IF ONE MEMBER HAS POSSESSION OF A DEADLY WEAPON; B) REQUIRE LOYALTY OATHS FOR THOSE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

THE UNION ALSO TRIES TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION BY STATEMENTS AND BY OFFERING SPEAKERS.

THREE GROUPS WERE NAMED AS CONSISTENTLY INIMICAL TO CIVIL LIBERTIES: THE POLICE, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (ON CENSORSHIP ONLY) AND THE AMERICAN LEGION. YET THE AMERICAN LEGION CLAIMS TO UPHOLD OUR BILL OF RIGHTS!

THE UNION HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE POLICE "AGENTS PROVOCATEURS" - THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO INVITE SOLICITATION FROM PROSTITUTES AND HOMOSEXUALS, THEN ARREST THEM. AN OCCASIONAL PROVABLE CASE MIGHT BE "BLAMED" ON THE PARTICULAR OFFICER; THE UNION WOULD NEED A LARGE BODY OF EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS A REGULAR PRACTICE OF A SECTION OF THE POLICE FORCE. "EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S BEING DONE," MR. RUNDQUIST CONCLUDED, "BUT THE COMPLAINTS JUST AREN'T COMING THROUGH TO US."

- BARBARA GITTINGS

I LOVE HER

One happy theme runs through my life,
shielding me from the full impact of adversities
and glorifying the meaning of good fortune which comes
my way--

It is the thought of my beloved.
Just thinking of how she laughs
or what she says
or the way she looks at me
makes my life full and wonderful.

That I found her and that she is
all things I had desired
is a dream come true
and a miracle I cling to.

I want her always--
I need her--
I love her.

- Carla Martin

READERS RESPOND

"BECAUSE OF MY RECENT CHANGE OF ADDRESS I FIND THAT THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE LADDER HAS MISSED ME. WOULD YOU KINDLY SEND AN ADDITIONAL COPY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AS I MISSED IT MUCHLY."

P.P., NEW YORK

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"I NOTED A LETTER IN THE LADDER ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES OF MEETING OTHER SIMILARLY INCLINED SOULS. THIS IS A PROBLEM I HAVE FACED CONTINUALLY. THE FUNNY THING IS, THOSE WHO WANT TO MEET PEOPLE FOR PURPOSES OF MISCONDUCT GENERALLY SEEM TO HAVE NO TROUBLE; THOSE WHO JUST WANT COMPANIONSHIP WITH THOSE OF SIMILAR INTERESTS, AND ARE QUITE SCRUPULOUS ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOR, NEVER MANAGE TO GET OUT OF THEIR SOLITUDE! MY OWN SUGGESTIONS (INADEQUATE THOUGH THEY MAY BE) ARE SIMPLY, TO SUCH LONELY SOULS, -

"1. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. (AND EARS.)

"2. BOOKSHOPS PROVIDE A FERTILE FIELD FOR STRIKING UP CONVERSATIONS WITH BROADMINDED PEOPLE INTERESTED IN A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. TALK TO EVERYONE YOU MEET INSTEAD OF STANDING AROUND LIKE A CLAM. SOONER OR LATER, BY THE LAW OF AVERAGES, YOU'LL MEET SOMEONE WHO WILL EITHER OPEN THAT SUBJECT OR GIVE YOU AN OVERTURE TO DO SO, AND IT IS ALWAYS COMME IL FAUT TO OFFER THE TALKER A CUP OF COFFEE IN A NEARBY RESTAURANT TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.

"3. THERE ARE SO MANY NOVELS OF THE GAY WORLD AROUND THAT IT'S EASY TO BRING THE SUBJECT UP NATURALLY IN THE GUISE OF LITERARY DISCUSSION. THE REACTION YOU GET WILL TELL YOU IF YOU ARE TALKING TO A POTENTIAL FRIEND OR A POTENTIAL DANGER.

"THOSE OF US WHO EITHER LIVE BEYOND THE GAY-BAR CIRCLE OR WHO ARE - TO MAKE A DREADFUL PUN - DE-BARRED BY CIRCUMSTANCES OR NATURAL DISINCLINATIONS TO DRINKING, HAVE THAT PROBLEM IN EXTREMES. THE MAIN THING TO REMEMBER IS: DESPITE NATURAL SHYNESS, THIS COUNTRY STILL ALLOWS FREE SPEECH, AND IT ISN'T TOO DIFFICULT TO TURN A

CONVERSATION WITH A CHANCE ACQUAINTANCE AROUND TO HER ATTITUDES ON ANY PRESSING SOCIAL PROBLEM, WHETHER IT'S POLITICS, SEGREGATION, JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, CENSORSHIP OR HOMOSEXUALITY.

"YOU MAY NOT MEET TOO MANY MEMBERS OF THE GAY WORLD BY THIS PROCESS, BUT YOU'LL MEET INTERESTING PEOPLE. AND MORE TO THE POINT, YOU WILL HAVE SHARPENED UP YOUR OWN PERCEPTIONS AND BECOME EXTROVERTED ENOUGH TO RECOGNIZE OTHERS OF YOUR KIND WHEN YOU DO RUN ACROSS THEM. AND SOONER OR LATER - YOU WILL. BUT IF YOU'RE AN OYSTER, YOU'LL PASS THEM BY WITHOUT SPEAKING OR RECOGNIZING... AS YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW."

L.B., TEXAS

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"EACH MONTH, WHEN THE LADDER ARRIVES, I SIMPLY DROP EVERYTHING ELSE AND READ IT FROM COVER TO COVER. TWO OF THE FEATURES I LIKE BEST ARE 'READERS RESPOND' AND 'LESBIANA'."

G.G., PENNSYLVANIA

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"THE CONTENTS OF THE LADDER ARE GETTING BIGGER AND BETTER WITH EACH ISSUE. HATS OFF TO YOUR FINE STAFF. SPECIAL PRAISE TO NIK FOR HER HUMOROUS AND WITTY 'PRINCE'S PREDICAMENT', A TENDER TALE OF MUCH SIGNIFICANCE." (DECEMBER, 1959.)

S.M., CALIFORNIA

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"OH, HOW LOVELY, HOW DELIGHTFUL THE FAIRY STORY BY NIK IS, I AM SURE THE 'PRINCE'S PREDICAMENT' PROBABLY PLEASED EVEN PEOPLE WHO HATE TO BE PLEASED. (DECEMBER, 1959.) IF SHE CAN DO MORE LIKE THAT PLEASE RUN THEM. SUCH DELICIOUS SATIRE AND HUMOROUS LITERARY ALLUSION.

"EDITORIAL ON GAY BARS EXCELLENT. I WISH, HOWEVER, THAT PEOPLE WOULD NOT DICTATE WHAT IS PROPER IN CLOTHING. MY GOD, ADMIT IT, SOME WOMEN SIMPLY LOOK BETTER IN MASCULINE CLOTHES. NOT FOR THE

BALL, PERHAPS, BUT FINE AT HOME OR IN GROCERY STORE, ETC."

B.G., KANSAS

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"SINCE THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER WHEN I RECEIVED THE FIRST INTIMATION THAT YOUR ORGANIZATION EXISTED I HAVE ALTERNATED BETWEEN ECSTATIC JOY AND THE DEPTH OF DESPAIR.

"YOU SEE, I HAVE EVERYTHING THAT A WOMAN COULD WISH FOR - PERFECT HEALTH AND PHYSICAL BEAUTY BUT I OFTEN FEEL SO VERY LONELY AND UNHAPPY BECAUSE MY THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS ARE DIRECTED TOWARD MEMBERS OF MY OWN SEX.

"AT 26 YEARS OF AGE I HAVE A PROMISING CAREER WHICH BRINGS ME INTO DAILY CONTACT WITH GIRLS IN THEIR LATE TEENS AND I LOVE MY WORK DEARLY. ONLY WOMEN WHO FEEL AS I DO CAN APPRECIATE A POSITION WHEREIN ONE MUST EXERCISE RIGID SELF CONTROL. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, AS YOU KNOW, CAN BE COLD AND MERCILESS.

"VISUALIZE, IF YOU CAN, 18 PAIRS OF FEMALE EYES WATCHING EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE AND LISTENING TO YOUR EVERY WORD. EYES THAT CRITICIZE - CONDEMN - ENVY - APPROVE - SPECULATE OR ADORE. EYES EMBODYING EVERY CONCEIVABLE HUMAN EMOTION. UNDISGUISED EYES THAT SWEEP OVER YOU FROM HEAD TO TOE WITH UNMISTAKABLE SIGNIFICANCE.

"BY FAR THE MOST DIFFICULT TO HANDLE IS THE ATTRACTIVE GIRL WHO HAS A 'CRUSH' ON YOU AND GOES OUT OF HER WAY TO MAKE HER PRESENCE HEAVEN - AND UNKNOWINGLY - HELL.

"AS I SIT ALONE IN MY COZY LITTLE APARTMENT I FEEL AN UNBEARABLE ACHE IN MY HEART AND A TERRIBLE YEARNING FOR LOVE. THERE ISN'T EVEN THE SOLACE OF SOME PAST EXPERIENCE - I HAVE HAD NO SUCH EXPERIENCE.

"I CANNOT EXPRESS THE JOY I FELT WHEN I READ YOUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE. I SIMPLY HAD NO IDEA AS TO THE ENORMITY OF THE SUBJECT OR ITS WIDESPREAD IMPLICATIONS, BUT THE KNOWLEDGE THAT MY FEELINGS ARE SHARED BY SO MANY HAS EASED MY BURDEN CONSIDERABLY."

J.M., ENGLAND

Here and There

Justice Weekly, sensational tabloid published in Toronto, Canada, reports the following:

"A Lesbian lovers' rendezvous in a 20-room house ... in Toronto was raided as a common bawdy house when some of the 'femmes' made the mistake of substituting real males for their 'butches'. After all the latter had to be kept in the manner to which they had been accustomed when they were 'pounding the pavements'.

"Morality officers on the case, it was explained in Toronto Magistrate's Court, told of seeing one Lesbian 'loving up' a couple of rather 'dainty dolls' in the vestibule of the establishment that was operated by Chinamen. The 'butches', of course, were dressed like men, with male hairdos, etc.

"'A real Lesbian', said a 27-year-old girl, 'is a broad who dresses in men's clothes and goes around with girls all the time.' This was after she insisted that the 'men' the police saw her with were actually females.

"However, three men among those netted in the raid were not Lesbians. They pleaded guilty to being found-ins.

"In addition to known Lesbians taking in girls for 'tricks' the officers said they saw a dozen or so prostitutes taking men into the house for short periods."

The owners of the house were fined for "permitting the premises to be used as a common bawdy house".

Your comments on this column, which first appeared last month, will be appreciated. Needed, if we are to continue it, are pertinent clippings from your hometown newspaper. Without these the column can't continue even if you like it! Clippings should include the name of the paper, city and state and the date. - ED.

Daughters of BILITIS

INCORPORATED

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